

Is This Heaven, Evan?

Book by
Lori Fischer
Music and Lyrics by
Don Chaffer, Lori Fischer, Lori Chaffer

In response to recent tragic events, Nick, a twenty-year-old suddenly hopeless hipster, becomes obsessed with the ending of the Mayan calendar. Convinced that the world is about to end, he sells his stuff and goes to Central Park to wait for the impending apocalypse as he sleeps under a willow tree. Then, he wakes up...

"But we are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved..." Hebrews 10:39

Draft 4C

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CHARACTERS

NICK
ROSETTA
SID/TEXTER
ABBY/TEXTER
ANGELA/JANET

PLACE

A New York Apartment, Sinkhole in front of the apartment and Central Park

TIME

December 21, 2012
December 22, 2012

SONGS

How Did We Get Here?
Music and Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer

End of the World
Music and Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer

Is This Heaven, Evan?
Music and Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer

How to Start Over
Music and Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer

End of the World Reprise
Music and Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer

Bust Loose
Music by Don Chaffer and Lori Chaffer
Lyrics by Don Chaffer

Find Three Things
Lyrics by Don Chaffer and Lori Fischer
Music by Don Chaffer and Lori Chaffer

Running time: 30 minutes

SCENE ONE

NICK, SID AND ABBY'S LIVING ROOM

In darkness, various talk radio stations spew...

NEW AGE RADIO

I'm telling you, once the Mayan calendar ends, that's it.

RADIO PREACHER (V.O.)

But we are not those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved...

NEW AGE RADIO

I'm talking all-out apocalypse.

Abby enters.

ABBY

Is Sid around?

NICK

Sh!

Abby exits into another room.

NEWS RADIO

Seventeen-year-old Trayvon Martin was shot and killed, his only weapon a box of recently purchased Skittles.

NICK

I want to believe that the world is a good place. But how can I believe that?

ABBY (O.S.)

Sid?

NEWS RADIO

The death toll is now over forty thousand in Syria...

SOUND OF A HURRICANE

NEWS RADIO

A twenty-three-year-old medical student was gang raped after boarding a bus in New Delhi...

SOUND OF A TORNADO

NICK

I want to believe that there is a loving God, but so much bad happens, you know?

ABBY (O.S.)

Sid?

NEWS RADIO

Of the twenty-eight people killed at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut twenty were children.

SOUND OF A SINKHOLE SWALLOWING A HOUSE

Abby re-enters.

NICK

We just can't keep going the way we're going, you know?

ABBY

Are you talking to me?

NICK

Yes. I just told you pretty much all there is to tell regarding my total loss of faith and hope.

ABBY

Oh...can you repeat it?

NICK

WHEN I WAS A LITTLE CHILD
THE SKY WAS BLUE, MY HEART WAS WILD
AND I WAS SURE WITH EVERY STEP THAT I WAS ON MY WAY
HOW DID I GET HERE?
HOW DID I GET HERE?

ABBY

SURE LIFE'S HARD, BUT LOVE IS BETTER
FIND SOMEONE GO OUT AND GET HER
COME ON, NICK, YOU'RE TWENTY-FIVE, RELAX AND ACT YOUR AGE
Seriously, Socrates...
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

NICK

HOW DID I GET HERE?

ABBY

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

NICK

HOW DID I GET HERE?

ABBY

Have a beer, watch some football or whatever guys do.

NICK

I FOUND LOVE, BUT SHE WAS FAITHLESS
LOOKED FOR MEANING FOUND NO BASIS
AND I CAN'T HAVE FUN WHILE WARS OF FAITHS AND RACES RAGE

ABBY

You got to believe in something, Nick. Look at me, I believe in Sid. And I am always happy. Speaking of which--
WHEN WILL HE GET HERE?

NEW AGE RADIO

The Mayan calendar is coming end.

ABBY

WHEN WILL HE--

NICK

Shh...Wait, I want to hear this.

NEW AGE RADIO

It's December 21, 2012 the day the Mayan calendar ends and according to some at eleven-eleven this world is about to be no mas.

Nick turns off the radio.

NICK

PLANET NIBIRU'S ON ITS WAY

ABBY

Planet Nibu-what?

NICK

THE SUN'S GALACTIC PLANE WILL CROSS ITS PATH TODAY

ABBY

Nick, come back to earth.

NICK

BY ELEVEN-ELEVEN, WE'LL ALL BE UP IN FLAMES
WE'LL BE PARTICLES WITHOUT NAMES

ABBY

Seriously, you believe we're going to be destroyed?

NICK

AND THAT'S WHEN

ABBY

Forget the beer--

NICK

THE BLACK HOLE SUCKS US IN

ABBY

You need to go straight to gin.

<p>NICK</p> <p>HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DID WE GET HERE? HOW DID WE GET HERE?</p>	<p>ABBY</p> <p>WHEN WILL SID GET HERE? WHEN WILL SID GET HERE? WHEN WILL SID GET HERE? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?</p>
--	--

NICK

CAUSE HERE IS REALLY CRAZY AND I CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW WE GOT
HERE

ABBY

Oh, crap! I left Sid's present in the car. Tell Sid he's
late. And that I'll be right back.

Abby exits and then pokes her head back
in.

ABBY

Oh yeah, hope you sort all your depressive whatever out.

Abby exits.

RADIO

Today, five more victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary
shooting were laid to rest.

NICK

That's it...

Nick starts to put his stuff into a
box. Sid enters.

SID

What's up with the box, Bro?

NICK and Sid sing *It's the End of the
World*.

NICK

I'M SELLING MY STUFF ON CRAIGSLIST
AND GIVING THE MONEY TO MY BEST FRIEND SID
I'M SEEING THE SIGNS THAT THE REST MISSED

SID

LIKE THE ANCIENT MAYAN WISDOM THAT THE GOVERNMENT HID

NICK

Exactly!

SID

Don't forget to mention the imminent demise of the Hostess Ho-
Ho and the ever delicious Twinkie.

NICK
Are you making fun of me?

SID
Nah, I'm just mocking you, Son.
CAUSE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR DESTRUCTION WHERE THERE ISN'T NONE
LIKE IT'S THE

NICK/SID
END OF THE WORLD

SID
BUT, IT'S NOT

NICK	SID
IT'S THE END OF	END OF THE WORLD'S
THE WORLD	NOT GONNA HAPPEN

NICK/SID
YEAH, THE END OF THE WORLD

NICK
IS

SID
NOT

NICK
IS

SID
NOT

NICK
NOT

NICK/SID
GOING TO HAPPEN

NICK
I just put a double negative in there. So, you agreed with
me that it's definitely going to happen.

SID
You suck.

ANGELA, a neighbor, enters limping.

NICK
Hey, Angela. Are you okay?

ANGELA

Every day I feel like I'm walking through life with a low-grade fever, because my job is soul crushing and I'm perpetually broke. But, other than that, I'm beyond the beyond of frickin' happiness.

NICK

I meant, what's up with the limp?

ANGELA

Oh! I almost fell into that sinkhole outside our building. I really wish somebody would fix that.

NICK

That sink hole is end times stuff.

ANGELA

So you keep saying.

SID

I keep telling you, Angela, life is what you make it.

ANGELA

Yeah, but for some odd reason, every time you say it, it doesn't really make me feel any better. Here, Nick, I wanted to give you something before you leave for Central Park.

Angela hands Nick a scarf.

NICK

You knitted me a scarf?

ANGELA

I can't stand the idea of you getting the flu right before you die...if you die.

NICK

Oh, I'm dying.

Nick hands Angela a box of crap.

NICK

Here, happy every holiday. It's all the crap I wasn't able to sell. Take this book too.

ANGELA

(Reading the book title)

Stop Complaining, Asshole?

NICK

Bad title, great book.

ANGELA

Thanks.

Sid and Nick exit. ABBY enters. She holds a present.

ANGELA

Hey, Abby.

ABBY

Hey, Angela.

ANGELA

Oooh, what's with the present?

ABBY

Sid and I are celebrating our one year anniversary.
BEFORE WE MET, MY LIFE WAS CRAPPY

ANGELA

YOU WERE GOOD AT CHOOSING LOSERS AND ELUDING MR. RIGHT

ABBY

BUT NOW WITH SID I'M BIG TIME HAPPY
AND I'M PRETTY SURE MY SINGLE LIFE IS ENDING TONIGHT

ANGELA

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

ABBY

THAT I WAS LIVING

ANGELA

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

ABBY

HE'LL PROPOSE TONIGHT

Abby enters the apartment.

ABBY/ANGELA

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

Everybody freezes except Nick.

NICK

Quick back story. I had this girl.

(He points to Abby)

I'm talking the kind of girl you think will never go out with you and then she does and you're thinking how is this even possible? But then you get to know her, and she's not the person you thought she was at all. And, after you lose your job, she basically tells you it was your money she liked not you and not only does she leave you she leaves you for your best friend, Sid.

(Pointing to Sid)

By the way, Sid doesn't know we dated.

It's a long story, but the short version is, they met at a party while I was recuperating from my devastation and heartbreak because...

(Singing)

IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD, IT WAS THE END OF THE WORLD

Abby unfreezes.

ABBY

That is not why I left you, Nick. I left you because you are a moper a notorious, self-absorbed moper.

NICK

Moper? No, things effect me deeply. Not that you would know what a deep feeling feels like.

ABBY

I know exactly what deep feelings feel like. I just happen to feel them for Sid.

NICK

You know what? All this doesn't matter now because...

Everybody unfreezes.

EVERYBODY

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

NICK

I MEAN THE REAL ONE

EVERYBODY

THE END OF THE WORLD

ABBY

Why sell all your stuff if it's the end of the world?

EVERYBODY

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

NICK

Okay, fine, I didn't think ahead, but I don't have to 'cause--

EVERYBODY

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

SID

THANKS FOR THE FUTON

EVERYBODY

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

ANGELA

I REALLY LOVE THIS CLOCK

EVERYBODY

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD
BRACE YOURSELVES CAUSE THIS IS THE END OF THE WORLD

Nick goes to exit.

SID

Have fun sleeping in Central Park.

NICK

Have a blast getting blown up into a million tiny pieces during the impending apocalypse. Hey, Abby, before I go off into that vast and final sunset, I want you to know, sharing an apartment with you has been a total, non-stop drag.

Nick exits.

ABBY

(Calling after Nick)

Don't fall into the sinkhole on your way out.

(To Sid)

I am so glad that doofus is gone.

Abby lights a candle.

SID

Nick's only gone if the world actually ends tonight, which it won't.

ABBY

No, Sid, he said, he definitely won't be coming back.

Nick re-enters.

NICK

Forgot my book.

SID

See you later, Dude.

NICK

Hate to break it to you, Bro, but this time tomorrow, we'll all be in the afterlife.

Nick exits.

SID

(calling after him)

Life is about balance, Nick.

(to Abby)

I hate it when he does crap like this. It's just like two years ago when he bungee jumped his way across America. Who does that? I mean, once, I get, but fifty-two times?

Abby massages Sid's shoulders.

ABBY

Can we not talk about him?

SID

It's just what if someone attacks him while he's sleeping in Central Park?

ABBY

Seriously, Sid, tonight is all about us.

Abby holds out an elaborately wrapped present.

SID

Oh, that's right--

ABBY/SID

Happy anniversary!

SID

Open mine first.

Sid hands Abby a plastic bag. Abby looks inside.

ABBY

Is this a joke?

SID

What? Everybody needs them.

Abby takes out a curiously long pair of socks.

ABBY

Socks? It's our first anniversary and all you come up with is socks?

SID

What's wrong with socks?

ABBY

Who are you, my Aunt Bertha? Cause this is an Aunt Bertha-type of present.

SID

But look, they go all the way up to your thighs.

ABBY

Right, so not only did you get me socks, you've given me impractical socks. I mean, you might as well have gotten me Tupperware or a Clay Aiken CD.

SID

Don't forget, I got you a sexy cheerleader outfit for your birthday last month.

ABBY

Sid, where's this relationship headed?

SID

Where's it headed? We're together. That's where it's headed.

ABBY

You got me socks, Sid.

SID

Some women would be jumping for joy over thigh high socks.

ABBY

I'm not some women.

Abby sits down in a depressed clump.

SID (CONT'D)

Come on, Pookie, let's not fight.

ABBY

I thought you were going to propose tonight.

SID

Propose? Why would I want to do that? Marriage is extreme. I don't believe in extremes.

Abby walks towards Nick's old bedroom.

ABBY

I'm going to bed.

On another part of the stage, Nick makes a bed for himself in Central Park.

NICK

IT'S THE END WORLD

SID

In Nick's room?

ABBY

Nick moved out. And since we're now officially broken up, Nick's room is now my room, Roommate.

NICK

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

SID
You're breaking up over socks?

ABBY
Just for the record, I got you Tour de France tickets.

Abby exits. Nick lies down on the ground.

NICK/SID/ABBY
(Singing)
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

SCENE TWO

SOUND OF BIRDS AND TRAFFIC. Nick wakes up. He stretches. And then, remembers he's probably dead. A WOMAN WITH A BABY CARRIAGE hurries past.

NICK
Hey, Lady! Here's a strange question, did the world by chance blow up last night?

She exits. THREE TEXTERS enter.

NICK
Hello? Yo, Texter People? I hate to bother you with actual verbal communication, but I was hoping you could enlighten me as to the ins and outs of the afterlife?

The Texters sit down and continue to text. JANET enters.

NICK
You there, Businesswoman, where are we?

JANET
Central Park?

NICK
Central Park Heaven?

JANET
Central Park is heaven, isn't it?

NICK
It never occurred to me that heaven would look like Central Park.

JANET
Trees, rocks, shrubs. This place is absolutely divine.

NICK

It's like earth only better.

JANET

Exactly. You might not know this by the way I'm stylishly dressed, but I was raised on a goat farm in the middle of a mountain town. So, you can imagine how much grass, this grass means to me.

NICK

Me too! I never thought I'd see grass again what with the apocalypse and all.

JANET

I hear ya.

NICK

I thought for sure I'd wake up just as I was dying, but--

JANET

What'd you say your name was?

NICK

Nick?

JANET

I can see you feel things deeply, Nick.

NICK

I do.

JANET

Nick, our connection goes far beyond space and time and the pettiness of the job I may or may not have just lost.

Music starts.

JANET

LET'S LEAVE THIS LONELY PLANET
I KNOW A GOAT FARM NOT THAT FAR AWAY

NICK

Are you an angel?

JANET

I am. I'm an angel who longs to love you like a devil.

(Singing)

BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS JANET
AND YOU ARE MY SUDDEN SOUL MATE

TEXTERS

YOU ARE HER SUDDEN SOUL MATE

JANET
WE'LL MAKE LOVE OUT IN THE OPEN

NICK
We will?

JANET
WE'LL LIE NAKED IN THE GRASS

NICK
(Singing)
JUST ONE QUICK QUESTION THAT I HAVE TO ASK

JANET
Anything.
(Singing)
YOU'RE MY LOVER, LOVING
BRIGHTER THAN FLUORESCENT LIGHTS
YOU'RE MY DANCER, DANCING
PRANCING IN YOUR SPARKLY TIGHTS

NICK
IS THIS HEAVEN?

JANET
I THINK IT MIGHT BE
HEAH HEAH HEAH HEAVEN?
AND I THINK I LOVE YOU
EH EH EH EH EVAN

NICK
Uh, it's Nick, actually.

TEXTERS
BUT EVAN IS SUBLIME

JANET
Can we keep it Evan for now. The name Nick harshes my mellow.

TEXTERS
PLUS IT DOESN'T RHYME

JANET
WE'LL MAKE GOAT MILK, AND GOAT CHEESES
WE'LL KEEP EXPENSES LOW, AND PROFITS HIGH

TEXTERS
THAT'S A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL

JANET
AND EVEN IF PRODUCTION FREEZES,
EVAN, I'LL LOVE YOU 'TIL THE DAY WE DIE

NICK

Again, it's Nick, and I thought we were already dead.

JANET

(Singing)

YOU'RE MY LOVER, LOVING
BRIGHTER THAN FLUORESCENT LIGHTS
YOU'RE MY DANCER, DANCING
PRANCING IN YOUR SPARKLY TIGHTS

NICK

SO, IS THIS HEAVEN?

JANET

I THINK IT MIGHT BE
HEAH HEAH HEAH HEAVEN?

TEXTERS

SHE THINKS IT MIGHT BE HEAVEN

JANET

AND I THINK I LOVE YOU
EH EH EH EH EVAN

TEXTERS

OH, SHE LOVES YOU, EVAN

NICK

My name is Nick!

Janet's cell phone rings.

JANET

Hold that thought.

(Answering phone)

Yellow. Uh-huh. Oh, so, you meant to fire the woman in the cubicle next to mine, not me? Will you be giving me a raise? Sweet! Can you double that, Boss Man? No, no worries and no hard feelings, but there will be a possible law suit in the near future. See you in a few.

She hangs up.

JANET (CONT'D)

Sorry, Nick, we would've been great goat farmers you and I, but as it turns out, my life of long term assets and market capitalization awaits me. See you later, Lover. I'll always think of you when I eat goat cheese.

Janet exits. ROSETTA jogs by. Nick jogs alongside her.

NICK

What's up, Jogger Lady! Here's a strange question, did the world by chance blow up last night? What I mean is are we both dead right now?

ROSETTA

Don't take this the wrong way, but--

She punches him in the arm.

ROSETTA (CONT'D)

Did you feel that?

NICK

Yes and ow!

ROSETTA

Well then, there's your answer.

NICK

I'm alive? Crap. Did anything of note happen over the last eight hours?

ROSETTA

I bought a new waterpik, but other than that--

NICK

Did the planets realign? What about a polar shift? Please tell me there was a reversal in the rotation of the earth.

ROSETTA

Are you going to talk to me my whole run?

NICK

No, it's just...I gave away all of my money.

ROSETTA

Is this a mugging? Are you trying to mug me?

NICK

What happened was the Mayan calendar stopped. Long story short, I thought for sure the world was going to end, see? So, I sold all my stuff. It was supposed to happen on December, twenty first, twenty-twelve at exactly eleven-eleven P.M.

ROSETTA

Here's the thing, I don't usually talk when I run.

NICK

I just went to bed, well, not bed. There's this certain willow tree where I kissed this girl once. I thought it'd be a good place to be when the world exploded. So, I slept under it.

ROSETTA

You must really love her.

NICK

No, definitely not. She's a terrible, really despicable person.

ROSETTA

Nobody goes to die under some tree where they kissed someone who they actually don't like. It doesn't make sense.

NICK

Seriously, she's the type person who could kill bunnies for a living, no problem.

ROSETTA

Okay, so, you don't like her and the world didn't end. Running is when I take my alone time, as in time when I am completely alone.

NICK

Okay, fine. Sorry I bothered you. I was just surprised to still be alive, is all.

Rosetta jogs away. Nick walks towards his apartment. Rosetta jogs back and then walks with him.

ROSETTA

What did you expect? That the world would really blow up?

NICK

Well, yeah.

ROSETTA

Look, if you don't like the way things are, go find something to fix. I promise, it'll make you feel better.

NICK

You make hope sound way too easy.

ROSETTA

Hope's not easy. Hope takes work.

NICK

You sound like a self-help book.

ROSETTA

Look, you're the one who wanted to talk.

NICK

Sorry, I really thought the end was nigh. Stupid jogger.

ROSETTA

So, you're bummed out that we're all still alive? You're mad because I'm suggesting you stop moping--

NICK

Moping?

ROSETTA

Why in the world would you want the world to end anyway?

NICK

I didn't want it to end. I just--

(Singing)

I KINDA THREW IN THE TOWEL WHEN THOSE KIDS WERE KILLED IN
CONNECTICUT
IT KINDA FILLED ME WITH DOUBT THAT THE HUMAN RACE WAS EVEN
CAPABLE OF GETTING IT
I'M TIRED OF GLOBAL WARMING, OIL SPILL, HATE CRIME, LAND
FILL, POLITICIAN STANDSTILL
SEX SLAVE, RACE WAR, GENOCIDAL KILLING FLOOR, STRIP MINING,
LYING-NERVOUS, SILVER-LINING-LIP-SERVICE EVERYWHERE I TURN
SO, I WAS OKAY JUST FINE, MADE ME NO NEVER MIND,
CATAclysmic REWIND, END OF SPACE AND TIME
JUST LET IT BURN, BURN, BURN

ROSETTA

THEN, YOU WOKE UP, SUNRISE CAME
YOU'RE STILL HERE, BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE THE SAME
I KINDA THINK THAT THIS LIFE BEAT YOU UP, KNOCKED YOU DOWN,
GOT THE BEST OF YOU
SO, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET BACK UP AND START
AGAIN, LET ME SUGGEST A FEW
GO BE A WORD THAT CURES THE PLAGUE OF FEAR, A SONG TO HEAL
THE HURTING EAR, A STREAM OF OPEN WINDOW LIGHT THAT PUSHES
BACK THE NIGHT
FIND THE KIND OF KINDNESS HATRED HATES, THE MERCY THAT CAN
CLEAN THE SLATE, SURRENDERING THE HANGING ROPE, IS HOW YOU
FIND THE HOPE
YOU'RE SO SURE OF SORROW ACTING LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW,
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN ANSWER, THIS WORLD'S SHE'S A DANCER,
JUST WATCH HER TURN, TURN, TURN
JUST WATCH HER TURN, TURN, TURN

NICK

WHEN I WOKE UP, SUNRISE CAME, SHE'S RIGHT HERE, BUT WHAT'S
HER NAME

ROSETTA

I'm Rosetta.

NICK

As in the stone?

ROSETTA
Yes.

NICK
I'm Nick.

ROSETTA
As in, "nick of time?"

NICK
Yes, 'cause I met you just in the nick of time.

Rosetta falls into the sinkhole.

ROSETTA (CONT'D)
Aaaaauugh!

Nick looks around for Rosetta.

NICK (CONT'D)
Rosetta? That's a bummer.
(Calling out into the empty
space)
Well, it was nice meeting you.

Nick exits.

SCENE THREE

SID AND ABBY'S LIVING ROOM

ABBY
(holding up a teddy bear)
LOOK AT THIS BEAR, I NAMED HIM POACHY
AFTER THE EGGS BENEDICT WE ATE BEFORE OUR FIRST KISS
(Holding up a picture of a
horse)
AND THEN THIS HORSE THAT DREW THE COACH WE
RODE INSIDE AT CENTRAL PARK
(Holding up a box labeled "Our
Love Story")
YEAH, I'LL BE BURNING ALL OF THIS
CAUSE, IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD

Abby takes out chalk and draws a line
down the center of the living room.

ABBY
This is my half of the apartment and this is your half.
Please keep your crap on your half.

SID
ABBY, IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

ABBY
 (throwing shoes and boxers)
 HERE ARE YOUR SHOES AND BOXERS

SID
 IT'S NOT THE END OF OUR WORLD

ABBY
 AND THESE STUPID LONG SOCKS
 IT'S THE END OF OUR WORLD

SID
 What about Nick?

ABBY
 Nick's gone and he's not coming back.

SID
 Oh, Nick's coming back.

ABBY
 No, he's not.

SID
 IS

ABBY
 NOT

SID
 IS

ABBY
 NOT

The door opens.

NICK
 Hey, Guys.

SID
 Told you.

ABBY
 MOVE YOUR CRAP CAUSE THIS IS THE END OF OUR WORLD

Abby disappears into Nick's room.

NICK (CONT'D)
 Sid, so, you were right and I was wrong. But I'm hoping since I gave you all my money, that that can count towards rent.

SID

What's your opinion about socks?

NICK

They're necessary. Warm. Now that the world didn't end, I have to say, I'm definitely pro-sock.

SID

I'm really glad we're in agreement about this sock thing. By the way, the couch is now your bedroom. Well, half of it. The other half is in Abby's part of the apartment so...

Nick lies on the couch with his back to Sid. Time speeds up and as bad news blares from the TV, hours and days pass. Nick puts the cover over his head.

TELEVISION

A dentist in Rochester acted within the law when he fired his hygienist for being too adorable, the NRA unapologetically opposed to new gun control laws. In our next segment, we're looking into a fat free way to make fried chicken.

SID

Nick, you gotta get up, Man.

TELEVISION

A Gunman fatally shoots two firefighters in New York as they try to put out a fire and a very merry way to lose some weight.

ABBY

You're being an A-hole, Poopy Pants.

TELEVISION

Police remain on high alert after the gang-rape of a twenty-three-year-old student. Up next, looks like snow is headed our way.

To-Go containers now litter the couch area. Angela enters. She carries a box, two bags of dirt and two plants.

ANGELA

Hey, Sleepy Man, Want some soil and this willow tree cutting? I'd keep them, but I'm about to travel around the world with doctors without borders and I need to be unfettered and free. By the way, I read that book you gave me, *Stop Complaining, Asshole*. And It pretty much changed my life forever. Okay then, see you in a year or two.

Nick sits up.

NICK

I just don't know how to do it, you know? It's like you're sitting in a restaurant ordering dessert, right? And then, someone reads a news update that says, thirty people just got shot at some Colorado movie theater. Everybody gets the appropriate amount of momentary sad, but five minutes later everyone's like maybe we should share an extra cobbler.

ANGELA

Sorrow. I think maybe we're defined by how we handle it.

NICK

Yeah, well, I'm handling it by not handling it.

ANGELA

MAYBE YOU GOT SOMETHIN' THAT YOU GOTTA DO
BUT BOTH YOUR HANDS ARE COVERED WITH CRAZY GLUE
MAYBE YOU GOT WINGS AND BABY YOU COULD SOAR
BUT SOMEBODY NAILED 'EM DOWN TO THE FLOOR
MAYBE YOU GOT A HARNESS IT'S SMOOTH AND ROUND
AND IT'S JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU IN THIS TOWN
YOU BEEN BEAT UP, SWEETIE, YOU'RE BLACK AND BLUE
WE GOTTA FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU

SID

YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE, YOU GOTTA BREAK OUT

ANGELA

YOU BEEN KEEPIN' AWFUL QUIET BABY WHEN YOU OUGHTTA SHOUT

SID

YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE, YOU GOTTA GET FREE

ANGELA

YOU GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO GET AHOLDA THAT KEY

SID

YOU GOTTA GET GOIN' GOTTA HIT THE DOOR HARD

ANGELA/SID

GO, BABY, GO, BABY, GO REAL FAR

ANGELA

YOU GOT A SAW WITH THE TEETH BROKE OFF

SID

YOU GOT A GOOD RIGHT HOOK, BUT YOUR GLOVE WENT SOFT

ANGELA/SID

YOU GOT LOCKJAW, BUDDY, YOUR FROZEN STIFF
IN A BAD PART OF TOWN AND YOU NEED A LIFT

Angela and Sid sit Nick up.

ANGELA

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO MAKE EXCUSES

SID

I KNOW HOW YOU CAME TO FEELIN' USELESS

ANGELA

BUT YOU CAN'T END, YOU NEED TO REMAKE

EVERYBODY

AND YOU GOT A WHOLE LOTTA NEW GROUND TO BREAK
YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE
YOU GOTTA BREAK OUT

Nick stands.

NICK

I BEEN KEEPIN' AWFUL QUIET BABY WHEN I OUGHTTA SHOUT

EVERYBODY

YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE
YOU GOTTA GET FREE

NICK

I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO GET AHOLDA THAT KEY

EVERYBODY

YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE
YOU GOTTA BREAK OUT

NICK/ANGELA

I BEEN KEEPIN' AWFUL QUIET BABY WHEN I OUGHTTA SHOUT

EVERYBODY

YOU GOTTA BUST LOOSE
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NICK/ANGELA

I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO GET AHOLDA THAT KEY

EVERYBODY

YOU GOTTA GET GOIN'
GOTTA HIT THE DOOR HARD
GO, BABY, GO, BABY, GO REAL FAR
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I GOTTA FIND SOME WAY TO GET AHOLDA THAT KEY

EVERYBODY

YOU GOTTA GET GOIN'
GOTTA HIT THE DOOR HARD
GO, BABY, GO, BABY, GO REAL FAR

NICK

I don't know if you noticed, but I've been depressed.

EVERYBODY

Oh, we noticed.

NICK

Come on Angela, let's go plant this willow tree in the sink hole.

Nick and Angela exit. Abby and Sid follow them out.

ABBY

Willow tree? Like the one we kissed under?

SID

You kissed Abby under a tree?

ABBY

That's right, he kissed me under the most beautiful willow tree ever.

SID

Like the tree you went to die under in Central Park?

NICK

Yes, but--

ABBY

You know what, Sid, I'm glad Nick didn't move out. At least when Nick and I dated, he took risks.

SID

You dated Abby?

NICK

Before you, way before you.

ANGELA

I'll get some water for the tree.

Angela grabs a bucket of water.

SID

Some best friend you turned out to be. Tell you what, I'll move out so you two can do whatever you've been doing all along.

ABBY

Watch out, you might do something extreme, Sid.

SID

Is this what you want; for me to be completely brokenhearted?

NICK

Seriously, Sid, I was going to tell you, but then you told me you loved Abby so--

ABBY

You love me?

SID

Why else would I buy you socks? It's extreme, but yes, I love you.

Nick pours dirt into the sinkhole.

ROSETTA

(from sinkhole)

Help! Help!

NICK

Is someone down there?

ROSETTA

Help! Help!

NICK

Rosetta?

Nick uses his scarf to pull Rosetta out of the sinkhole. Angela nurses Rosetta.

ANGELA

Here, drink this water while I take your blood pressure.

Rosetta gulps water from the bucket.

ROSETTA

You saved me, Nick of time.

NICK (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

ROSETTA

I am now.

Music plays.

ANGELA

Your blood pressure's one-twenty over sixty, by the way,
which is really good considering.

Nick holds up the willow tree.

ROSETTA

What are you doing?

NICK

Kissing you under this willow tree.

As music plays, Nick kisses Rosetta.

NICK (CONT'D)

What'd you think about down there?

ROSETTA

You're going to tell me I sound like a self-help book.

NICK

Say it anyway.

Then, as Rosetta sings, Nick plants the
willow tree.

ROSETTA

FIND THREE THINGS
THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR
TELL THOSE THINGS TO SOMEONE
DON'T HIDE THEM ANYMORE
IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW
IT'S TO FIND THREE THINGS SOMEHOW

NICK

LIKE A RAINBOW
IN THE RAIN-SCARRED SKY
YOU DON'T ALWAYS
GET TO UNDERSTAND WHY
WHY YOUR WORLD'S BEEN FLOODED FORTY DAYS AND FORTY NIGHTS

SO YOU STARE AT THE COLORS FROM THE WATER-SPLINTERED LIGHTS
AND YOU THANK GOD

NICK/ROSETTA

YOU THANK GOD
FOR TIME
FOR LIFE
AND FOR LOVE

SID

I BEEN COUNTING ALL THE STARS AT NIGHT

ABBY

SO BUSY WISHING ON THEIR DISTANT LIGHT

ABBY/SID

TILL I TURNED AROUND TO HEAR A NEARER TUNE
TO THINK I ALMOST MISSED THE MOON

EVERYBODY

FIND THREE THINGS
THAT YOU ARE THANKFUL FOR
TELL THOSE THINGS TO SOMEONE
DON'T HIDE THEM ANYMORE
IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT WE NEED RIGHT NOW
IT'S TO FIND THREE THINGS SOMEHOW

NICK/ROSETTA

SO THANK YOU

SID/ABBY

SO THANK YOU

ANGELA

THANK YOU

EVERYBODY

FOR TIME, FOR LIFE, FOR LOVE, FOR LOVE

NICK/SID

FIND THREE THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

SID/ABBY

SO THANK YOU

NICK/ANGELA/SID/ABBY/ROSETTA

THANK YOU

End of Play.